

**Remarks  
Ambassador James Zumwalt**

**Reception in Honor of Dr. Vaughan Turekian,  
Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State**

**Ambassador's Residence - March 7, 2016**

*(As prepared)*

Distinguished representatives of the Government of Senegal,  
Distinguished members of the Academia,  
Distinguished representatives of the Science and Technology Community,  
Dear guests,  
Good evening!

I am delighted to welcome you to the Residence on the occasion of the visit of a very special guest: Dr. Vaughan Turekian, Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State. Dr. Turekian is in Senegal to attend the Next Einstein Forum that commences tomorrow. Dr. Turekian had an opportunity today to meet and visit with a diverse group of scientists and researchers from academia and the private sector, including some information technology entrepreneurs.

We are here tonight because we all recognize a growing and prosperous Senegal serves our common interests. The U.S. Government seeks to leverage investments in science, technology and innovation to increase Senegal's institutional and human resource capacity. This work will support Senegal in achieving its development goals, especially in agriculture. We also advocate for policies that facilitate an improved business environment – a prerequisite for private sector investment and for boosting innovation and creativity. Dr. Turekian's visit underscores the important role of science, technology and innovation as key drivers that could help accelerate economic growth. Every one of you contributes to this objective - whether you are a science professor, a research scientist, an entrepreneur, or a young innovator.

It is in this context that we welcome Dr. Turekian. He assumed his role as the Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State last September, with more than fifteen (15) years of experience in integrating science, technology, and innovation in U.S. diplomacy. Originally trained as an atmospheric chemist, he went on to hold government positions under Presidents George W. Bush and Obama, and has worked for the American Association for the Advancement of Science as its Chief International Officer and Director of its Center for Science Diplomacy.

We value Dr. Turekian's visit and hope that it will foster a stronger partnership with the United States as Senegal advances its *Plan Emergent Senegal* strategy for inclusive growth. We all share a commitment to a Senegal *emergent*, and I look forward to an engaged discussion this evening with all of you on how we can work together to accomplish that goal.

Thank you for joining me in welcoming the Science and Technology Advisor, Dr. Vaughan Turekian!